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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT
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CD NO.

COUNTRY Rumania

DATE DISTR. 22 MAY 51

SUBJECT Construction Progress of the Danube-Black Sea
Canal Project

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- 25X1 1. [] the Danube-Black Sea canal project is still
25X1 in its initial stages, and at the present rate of work it will take at
least ten more years to complete this canal. There are from 3,800 to
4,000 individuals employed on this project at present, most of whom are
political prisoners or Rumanian soldiers who are considered non-
sympathetic to the regime. Work is carried out haphazardly on the canal;
various areas are worked on, depths are dug at several levels, and there
are vast stretches between work sites. Most of the labor on this canal
is done by hand; there are, however, a total of 1,500 horse-drawn carts
to transport the earth.
2. In connection with the canal project, the Danube River port for Cernavoda
is now under construction. This will form one terminus of the canal.
At present, excavation work along a two kilometer river front section is
being excavated. Earthworks have been erected to hold back the Danube
River and the earth is being moved to the rear in order to form a built-
up bank. This will be the port area, located just below the Cernavoda
railroad bridge.
3. There are four Czech-made excavators in use on the port excavations as
well as 80 horse-drawn carts. A small narrow gauge railroad is also used
to remove the earth. No cement has been poured anywhere along the canal.

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